



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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IM Project Seeks Executive Director

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

At the June 3 Interoperability Montana Project Directors (IMPD) meeting, members approved hiring an Executive Director to manage the IM Project. A position description is available at <http://interop.mt.gov/>.

The position also is posted at the Montana jobs site: <https://jobs.mt.gov/jobs/seeker/search/search.seek>. Type in job order number 2973341 in the search box.

Western Interoperability Consortium Meeting

By Pete Mohan pmohan@mt.gov

The Western Interoperability Communications Consortium (WICC) met in Hamilton on Tues., June 17. Project Director, George Gupton, reported on the recent Interoperability Montana Project Directors (IMPD), IM Finance and Governance Committees, and Staffing Sub-Committee meetings.

Members discussed the latest areas of interest in their jurisdictions and reviewed site requirements in Mineral and Ravalli counties needed to tie into the IM Project. They also spoke about the regional aspects of connecting the microwave system with Idaho. Ravalli county sites that will connect to Beaverhead County will be evaluated in an early July time period for confirmation of microwave paths.

The next meeting is scheduled at 10:00 am on July 22 in Sanders County with a location to be announced.

Mobile Data Terminal Consortium Meeting

By Pete Mohan pmohan@mt.gov

The Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Consortium met on Mon., June 16 in Bozeman. Project Director, Sheriff Jim Cashell, reported on the current status of the MDT project and the previous meeting of the MDT technical committee.

The technical committee has made five recommendations as follows: 1. To select and develop a pilot site in a rural Montana area to utilize a low-speed integrated voice and data technology, 2. To select a test site for 700 MHz wide-band mobile data, 3. Not to expand the existing UHF system, but utilize the equipment to expand/improve the coverage footprint, 4. To release a Request for Information (RFI) to identify appropriate technology to expand the system, and 5. To continue to ensure that the microwave system provides a suitable network for deploying the MDT system. These recommendations were approved. Roosevelt County was selected as the rural area pilot for integrated voice and data, and

Cascade County/Great Falls was selected as the pilot area for development of the 700MHz wide-band system.

Dave Clouse, Northrop Grumman, briefed the group on the status of Interoperability Montana infrastructure progress and how it will impact the MDT project. Roger Smith, Montana Highway Patrol, brought the group up to date on MDT developments and explained how the new installed systems will allow the "trickle down" of older, usable equipment to jurisdictions not already on the MDT system. Sheriff Cashell reviewed the history of the MDT project and explained that these recommendations and recent accomplishments would allow for the continued success of the MDT project.

The July meeting was cancelled, and the next MDT meeting is scheduled for Mon., Aug. 25, at 10:00 am, at the Best Western City Center Conference Room in Bozeman.

IM Finance Committee Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The IM Finance Committee met in Helena on Tues., June 17 at the offices of Anderson and ZurMuehlen (AZ). Members reviewed requests for COPS Grant subscriber units and made Phase 1 expenditure recommendations that will be forwarded to the IM Project Directors (IMPD). Members discussed using a central purchasing mechanism to possibly free up more money for additional radio purchases based on a Phase 1 and Phase 2 priority list. All radio requests were for trunked and encrypted radios.

Bill Fleiner reported on efforts to obtain sub-grantee status for the IM Project. Authority and responsibility will be assigned to the IM Project when this designation is obtained, and the state legislative auditor will ensure that the IM Project can answer the test of an audit. AZ will provide accounting guidance to ensure compliance with regulations and audit processes.

Bill indicated that the Staffing Sub-Committee plans to hire a Human Resources consultant to refine the Executive Director job description and facilitate the process for selecting finalists. A site review at the Montana Association of Counties (MACo) is anticipated to determine if its facility, staffing and records storage will be sufficient for the Executive Director and related positions.

A meeting took place on June 16 with state financial individuals, and a MOU will be developed to address policy issues for spending FY08-09 state appropriated funds. Bill clarified several procurement



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and payment-related questions.

Discussion took place about progress along the Northern Tier, and Bill reported that local jurisdictions have made substantial commitments of individual resources that have been helpful in making the project a success, which is key to securing future funding. Progress has been tremendous, but it must be recognized that future NTIP expenditures will be needed.

Hill County has proposed hiring a radio system manager for six counties who would be responsible for radio repair, maintenance, programming, etc. Bill will forward the proposal to Finance Committee members.

Bill has requested a proposal for completing fleet mapping along the Northern Tier as well as for SCMIC (Gallatin County), Central, and the I-15/90 consortia. If fleet mapping is accomplished on the front end, local jurisdictions will be better equipped for maintaining it. Fleet mapping isn't a long process, but it needs a concentrated effort to compile necessary information.

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Mon., July 14 at the AZ offices, 828 Great Northern Blvd., from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The I-15/90 Corridor Interoperability Consortium met Thurs., June 19, at the Butte Chamber of Commerce. Project Director Dave McPherson explained invoicing on the FEMA fire grant radios and the group discussed the progress of distribution and programming. Dave also reported that the consortium's request for COPS grant subscriber units was recommended for funding by the IM Finance Committee. The IM Project Directors will vote on this recommendation at its July 15 meeting. Receipt of these subscriber units will make three out of the four counties in the I-15/90 consortium whole.

Tom Smith, Northrop Grumman, reported that NEPAs have been submitted to DES on four sites within the consortium. Construction permits are complete for the Lost Creek site, and a NEPA will be submitted soon. Work details at Red Mountain, Fleecer and the Butte Silver-Bow 9-1-1 sites also were discussed.

Wing Spooner, PSSB, provided information about the last IM Technical Committee meeting, and Dave gave a brief report on the IM Project Directors meeting. Dave is now in charge of the Business Practices sub-committee. He also thanked everyone for signing the letter of support for the federal appropriation request.

It appears that the two-year delay in FCC licensing for Red Mountain frequencies decreases the chances that the combiner can be manufactured and installed before snow starts on this high mountain site in the fall. The consortium agreed to contact Baucus' office to see if his office can look into speeding up

The next meeting is scheduled for Thurs., July 17 at the Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce at 10:00 am.

Upcoming Meetings

June 23

IM Frequency Sub-Committee Meeting
Helena • 8:00 am • State Capitol • Room 172

June 23

IM Technical Committee (IMTC) Meeting
Helena • 9:00 am • State Capitol • Room 172

June 25

Tri-County Consortium
Helena • 10:00 am
DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

June 25

Eastern Tier Consortium (ETIC)
Glendive • 10:00 am
Law Enforcement Center; 440 Colorado Blvd.

June 26

Big Sky 11 Consortium
Columbus • 10:00 am • Fire Dept., 944 E Pike Ave.

July 3

Northern Tier (NTIP) • Conference Call

July 9

South Central Montana Consortium (SCMIC)
Bozeman • 10:00 am
Emergency Operations Center, 219 East Tamarack

July 9 – Meeting Cancelled

Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)
Great Falls • Next mtg: Aug. 13, Lewistown

July 14 (Please Note Date Change)

IMGC Finance Committee
Helena • 9:00 am - Noon
Anderson & ZurMuehlen • 828 Great Northern Blvd.

July 14 (Please Note: Date Change)

IM Governance Committee
Helena • Noon - 5:00 pm
DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

July 15 (Please Note: Date Change)

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm • State Capitol

July 17

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium
Butte • 10:00 am • Chamber of Commerce • 1000 George St.

July 22

Western Interoperability Comm. Consortium (WICC)
Thompson Falls • 10:00 am • Sanders County
Location to be announced